

**Kanegasaki Sister City Committee**  
**Business Meeting Minutes**  
**January 25, 2011**  
**4:00 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge**

**Members Present:** Amy Springer (Chair), Denise Boyd, Florence Boynton, Jule Dupre, Stephanie Joyce. Byron Koh, Helen MacMellon, Nancy Pagano

**Others:** Aaron Hayden (Select Board Liaison)

**Members Absent:** Bill Hutchinson, Aaron Kropf, Kathy Woods Masalski

**Secretary Report:** revised minutes of December 20, 2010 will be sent

**Treasurer Report:** Balance: \$1,656.82. Florence reports that she has not received bills for the translators. Amy will contact Yuko.

**Amy's Updates:**

- We sent New Year's cards to Mayor Takahashi and to the Lifelong Learning Center, also a personal note from Amy and a sample textbook from her course.
- Amy passed around messages from the Mayor: a New Year's message/visit thank you and a thank you for the package greetings
- No word on 10th anniversary of their Emily Dickinson Resource Center in Kanegasaki--so probably they will not be inviting us to send guests
- *Future directions and ideas:*
  1. Amy is still hoping to find recruits to work on an internet community for the Sister Cities--Where we could post pictures and brief messages about town events and so forth.
  2. Amy hopes to work with Yuko on a Brochure or checklist on protocols for Amherst residents visiting Kanegasaki, to be available for future times when we have visitors going there. We could similarly have a list of protocols for receiving visitors from Kanegasaki, to provide to town officials and others who might meet with delegations from Kanegasaki in the future.
  3. Although we had a great "Hana mi in January " party last year, Amy is too busy to do it soon, maybe at the actual Hana Mi season.

**Kanegasaki 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishment of Emily Dickinson Resource Center**

The committee discussed sending a package to Kanegasaki to commemorate the 10th anniversary celebration of their Emily Dickinson Resource Center, we could do this jointly with the Emily Dickinson Museum: send a greeting, card, pictures, books or audio from the Dickinson museum, poems from Amherst 2d graders (who have a unit on Emily Dickinson). Denise will look into some ideas, Stephanie will find out about poems from the school, Amy will contact Jane Wald of the Emily Dickinson Museum.

**Planning for Kanegasaki Student Visit**

This year there are 14-16 students coming to Amherst March 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion: perhaps Middle School chorus director David Ranen could be asked if his students could perform at the Farewell Dinner on Saturday. Only a limited number of activities need be planned for Wednesday, since the group will be tired; Nancy offered to host a potluck in the Community Room at Greenleaves Condos where she lives. Everyone is invited to join the chaperones for Thursday and Saturday night's dinners, but in order to avoid a crowd scene: Nancy will host the chaperones with Jule on Friday; on Wednesday, Denise will host them with teachers. Bertucci's perhaps one of those evenings. When there is alcohol consumed, it would make Town reimbursement easier if two checks could be asked for: one for food and one for wine/beer.

**Report on Mayor's visit in November**

General agreement that it was a highly successful one: it was good for the schools, the Committee, Town Meeting. The Reception was effective in bringing "key players" together (the Town Manager is now in e-mail contact with Mayor Takahashi).

**Looking to the Future**

Where do we go from here? Discussion of perhaps asking for a representative to the Committee from the business community; past and future exchanges discussed: specifically the upcoming anniversary of the Kanegasaki Emily Dickinson Center. Stephanie has a curriculum of what the Amherst 2<sup>nd</sup> graders learn about Dickinson. We could send an autographed copy of Polly Longworth's book about Dickinson.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 4 PM.**

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 PM

**Respectfully Submitted, Byron Koh, Secretary**